

## **Bauer**

The Bauer site, located approximately three miles southwest of the city of Tooele, in Tooele County, Utah, consists of three properties: Bauer Dump, Bauer Tailings, and the Blackhawk Resin Company (BRC).



Bauer was an active dumping site for silver and lead ore smelting from the 1920s until 1979, when mining ceased and the town was abandoned. During the 1960s, the BRC, an adhesives manufacturing facility; discharged coal, fine residue, and organic solvents into diked sediment ponds in the Bauer vicinity. These operations resulted in contamination of on-site soil and water. The contaminants of concern are arsenic and lead. Exposure to arsenic and lead may occur due to ingesting or inhaling of contaminated dust.

## **Contact Information**

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A copy of the Bauer Public Health Assessment is available through the Tooele County Health Department, Tooele County Library, or online at [www.health.utah.gov/enviroepi](http://www.health.utah.gov/enviroepi).

## **Utah Department of Health**

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## **Bauer Dump & Tailings- Blackhawk Resin Company**



**Tooele County, Utah**

## Contaminants:

### Arsenic

**Arsenic** occurs naturally in low levels in our environment. Arsenic has no smell, and no special taste. Thus, one cannot usually tell if arsenic is present in food, water, or air.

Most of the arsenic ingested from contaminated water, soil, or food quickly enters into the body. Inhalation of arsenic contaminated dusts can result in contaminated dust particles settling onto the lining of the lungs, and subsequent entry of arsenic into the body. The body usually eliminates arsenic through the urine. The ingestion of arsenic has also been reported to increase the risk of cancer in the liver, bladder, kidney, and lungs.

### Lead

**Lead** occurs naturally in the environment; however, most of the lead in the environment comes from human usage. Lead is used in paints, ceramic products, caulking, gasoline additives, ammunition, and many other applications. Its use has been reduced in recent years because of lead's harmful effects. People living near hazardous waste sites can be exposed to lead and chemicals that contain lead by breathing air, drinking water, eating foods, or swallowing or touching dust or dirt that contains lead. Once in the body, lead is mainly stored in

the bones and teeth until it leaves the body through feces.

Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body. In adults, high levels of lead may cause decreased reaction time, weakness in fingers, wrists, or ankles, memory loss, and anemia. Lead exposure may also damage the kidneys and the reproductive system.

Children are more sensitive to the effects of lead than adults. Fetuses exposed to lead in the womb may be born prematurely and have lower weights at birth. Exposure in the womb, during infancy, or in early childhood may also slow mental development and lower intelligence later in childhood.

#### Exposure:

- Soil Ingestion: swallowing contaminated soil or dust through hand to mouth contact.

- Dust Inhalation: breathing air containing contaminated dust inside or outside the home.

#### Conclusions:

- High levels of arsenic and lead in the soil at Bauer site poses the likelihood that exposure has occurred, and continues to occur, for residents living near the site. Of particular concern is the potential for long-term developmental health effects of lead exposure on children who live in the area.

Contact the  
Tooele County Health Department  
for Blood Lead Testing Information!

## Recommendations:

### How can I reduce my exposure to Arsenic & Lead?

- Wash hands frequently especially before eating, handling food or smoking.
- Eat foods high in iron & calcium.
- Remove shoes before entering your home.
- Wet-mop floors.
- Damp-dust counters, tables, and window ledges regularly.
- Consider upgrading your vacuum cleaner bags to those with a filter or simply change your bag more often. Wash the soil from homegrown fruits and vegetables before bringing them into the home.
- Keep pets out of areas with contaminated soil. Dogs and cats carry contaminated soil on their feet and fur into the home.
- Bathe your pets frequently.
- Change A/C and furnace filters regularly.
- Keep windows and door shut on windy days.

